

03-101-2
P17

October 25, 2004

To: APHIS Committee

Re: Deregulation of the Roundup gene by Scotts/Monsanto

I have been farming in the Willamette Valley raising creeping bentgrass since 1960. Bentgrass has been the key ingredient in my farming operation and I feel threatened by the production of open pollinated creeping bentgrass in the Madras area. I hear and have attended hearings and am very concerned with the evidence that has been in the papers lately where pollen has gone as far as 13 miles, and I know seed and straw was let escape in that irrigation district as well. I believe the whole irrigation district is contaminated now and for the future.

When I first started farming there was no crabgrass in the Willamette Valley, now crabgrass is everywhere. That noxious weed only spreads by seed, it doesn't have the pollen to contend with like bentgrass. When my fields pollinate in the spring, they make clouds of pollen, and I can visualize transgenic pollen contaminating the Willamette Valley. As the seed and resident plants in the area continue to grow, produce pollen, produce transgenic seed, go on cars, shoes, and in water. The Willamette Valley will surely be contaminated in short order if this production continues. Therefore, I strongly oppose the continuation of open pollinated transgenic bentgrass. I believe that the Penncross Bentgrass Assoc. has a pollen containment system that will work and enable all the benefits of herbicide, disease resistant transgenic creeping bentgrass to be produced safely providing all the benefits but none of the hazards that are evident in the current production in Madras.

Respectfully,



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